

Population and Sustainability

It was in 1989, that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) recommended 11 July be observed as World Population Day to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues. It took the world thousands of years to reach a population of one billion, but it was only a matter of centuries before that number increased sevenfold. With great influx in population comes great increase in global issues.

Recently World Population Day 2017 was observed by all countries. Rising population has become a matter of biggest concern today for most of the countries due to which planet's sustainability is at stake. According to the UN's World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, around 83 million people are being added to the world's population every year. India received over 1, 00,000 migrants per year between 2010 and 2015. This year's theme is *"Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations."* Access to safe, voluntary family planning is a human right. It is also central to gender equality and women's empowerment, and is a key factor in reducing poverty. Yet around the world, some 214 million women in developing countries lack access to information or allied services.

Issues on the Rise -

Climate Change

Scientists believe that humans contribute greatly to climate change, but they also assert that they have the potential to act as its main solution. A rising population results in massive consumption of natural resources, resulting in unprecedented shifts in the environment. With the certainty of future population growth, we must combat climate change not only by reevaluating what we consume, but how we consume.

Poverty

Lower population equals less poverty. Where population growth moves faster than economic development, there is bound to be poverty. The population of the world's poorest countries are expected to double and even triple in population over the next century.

For sustainable living there is an urgent need to invest in universal public infrastructure and services to improve efficiencies in transportation and housing, two big areas of consumption. Additionally, making smarter, more sustainable urban areas will further standoff climate change. Population is directly related to poverty. It is a vicious cycle, but improved health care and sexual education is a viable way out.

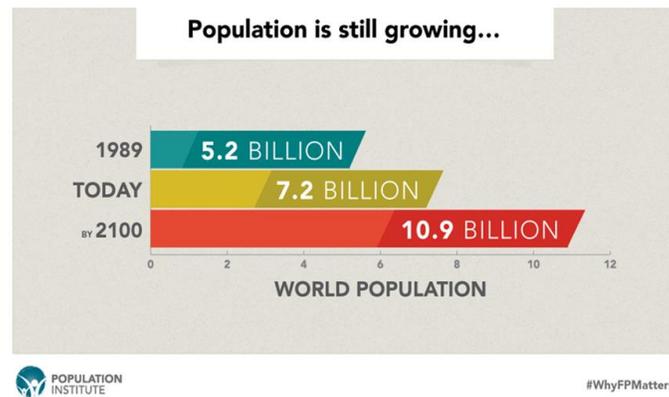
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The greatest challenge: Sustainable food for everyone?

Worldwide population is expected to grow to nearly 10 billion by 2050 - but agricultural lands won't be able to follow the same pace. The world's population continues to grow - but the Earth's surface doesn't. Already one in nine people around the world suffers from hunger. And forecasts offer a nonstop rise: The global population is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100. So how these billions will be fed without destroying the Earth?

A common misconception is that protecting the environment exacerbates poverty in poor nations because it prevents agricultural development and the ability to harvest natural resources. This is far from the truth. In fact, environmental protection initiatives actually help alleviate poverty.

The protection of natural ecosystems from environmental degradation, such as pollution, deforestation and biodiversity loss, ensures the safety and stability of local impoverished communities that rely on those precious natural resources for survival. Environmental protection has proven to be a key factor in poverty reduction around the world.



Although it's a dire picture, the situation is not as disastrous as it might seem. **Food is not lacking - it is just poorly managed!**

